

Remarks by Chargé d’Affaires Margaret B. Diop

Iftar Dinner, 2014

Ambassador’s Residence, Long Circular Road, Port of Spain

On Wednesday, July 16, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

- Mrs. Zalayhar Hassanali
Former First Lady of Trinidad and Tobago;
- Mr. Yacoob Ali
President of ASJA;
- Imam Haji Abzal Mohammed
Past President of the Inter Religious Organization of Trinidad and Tobago;
- All other distinguished members of the Muslim Community and
- Embassy Staff,

As-salamu alaykum Good evening,

Thank you to Mufti Haque for that beautiful recitation from the Holy Quran and
Imam Haji Mohammed for the opening prayer.

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I would like to wish all of you here, the Muslims of Trinidad and Tobago and the 1.6 billion Muslims around the world *Ramadan Kareem*.

In this holy month of Ramadan, I join President Obama, Secretary Kerry and Ambassadors around the world in opening our home so that we can break bread together and celebrate Ramadan.

This is a time of reflection and devotion when we join with family and friends in celebration. And it is my pleasure to be sharing what has become a tradition here in Trinidad and Tobago for the last several years. I remember last year when I had just arrived I met so many of you here at my first official event.

As President Obama said in his Ramadan message at the start of the month:

“Ramadan ... reminds us of our shared responsibility to treat others as we wish to be treated ourselves and the basic principles that bind people of different faiths together: a yearning for peace, justice, and equality. At a moment when too many people around the world continue to suffer from senseless conflict and violence, this sacred time reminds us of our common obligations to pursue justice and peace and to uphold the dignity of every human being.”

Like the United States, Trinidad and Tobago has diverse society that welcomes people of all faiths and all religions. In both our countries different religions stand side-by-side, working to educate our youth, care for the sick and poor and to create

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a society dedicated to tolerance, peace, and justice. The national anthem promises that this twin-island republic is a country “where every creed and race find an equal place”, it’s a bold promise, but one which I know every one of you works to uphold.

Ramadan Kareem.